

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 MMO-01 SS-15 SP-02
PER-01 ABF-01 /046 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MGT:JFSIMMONS:LB
APPROVED BY ARA/MGT:WDCALDERHEAD
ARA/MGT:GJKRIEGER
M/MO:GRMAYS

-----028018 220702Z /16
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185439

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR CHIEF OF MISSION FROM ACTING ASST SECRETARY BUSHNELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:AODE, AFSP, APER

SUBJECT: MODE STAFF REDUCTIONS

1. AS BUREAU PREPARES, WITHIN MODE GUIDELINES, TO MAKE
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT ELIMINATING AMERICAN AND LO-
CAL POSITIONS FROM VARIOUS AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT CEILINGS
THROUGHOUT ARA, WE WISH TO CONSULT WITH YOU ONCE MORE
TO OBTAIN YOUR THOUGHTS AND CONCURRENCES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MODE REQUESTS SENT TO YOU IN RECENT
MONTHS, YOU IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND LOCAL
POSITIONS WHICH COULD BE ELIMINATED WITHOUT DETREMENT
TO THE CONDUCT OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH MEXICO. AS YOU
KNOW, AT HIS MARCH 13 CABINET MEETING PRESIDENT CARTER
REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO MAKE A SELECTIVE REDUCTION
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OF PERSONNEL SERVING UNDER DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION
ABROAD. ACCORDINGLY, LETTERS WERE SENT TO THE CONCERNED
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES SUMMARIZING THE STAFF REDUCTION
YOU RECOMMENDED AND REQUESTING THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO
BRING ABOUT THESE REDUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY
BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1978. THE PROPOSED STAFF REDUCTIONS IN
QUESTION, AND THE VARIOUS RESPONSES TO THEM SO FAR ARE

SUMMARIZED BELOW:

PROPOSED REDUCTIONS

U.S. FSL

ICA 6 (1 FROM REGIONAL BOOK OFFICE, 46 (5 FROM REGIONAL
3 FROM REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER, BOOK OFFICE AND
1 PROGRAM RESEARCH OFFICER AND 41 FROM REGIONAL
1 OFFICER IN OFFICE OF PROGRAM SERVICE CENTER)
OFFICER)

AGRI 1 THIRD AMERICAN OFFICER

LEGATT 1 AGENT AT GUADALAJARA OR
HERMOSILLO

INS 1 IMMIGRATION OFFICER-TIJUANA

AGENCY RESPONSES

ICA

ICA CONCURS IN THE REDUCTION OF 2 AMERICAN POSITIONS
(NON-REGIONAL). ICA DOES NOT AGREE TO ELIMINATE ANY
REGIONAL OPERATIONS OR FSL POSITIONS. ICA STATES THAT
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THE REGIONAL BOOK OFFICE AND THE REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER
IN MEXICO CITY ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR ICA THROUGHOUT
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AREA. THE REGIONAL
SERVICE CENTER PROVIDES PRINTING AND PUBLICATION SERVICES,
INCLUDING TRANSLATING SERVICES TO 25 POSTS AND IS A
MAJOR FACTOR IN HELPING SHARE IDEAS AND CULTURAL ACTI-
VITIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES. ICA STATES
THAT PRINTING SERVICES ARE ALSO PROVIDED TO OTHER U.S.
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THEY NOTE THAT RELOCATION COSTS WOULD
BE HIGH AND THAT TRAINED PERSONNEL COULD BE LOST.

THE REGIONAL BOOK OFFICE, ACCORDING TO ICA, MUST BE
LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO COMMERCIAL BOOK PUBLISHERS
TO BE EFFECTIVE. ICA STATES THAT OVER 100 AMERICAN
TITLES A YEAR ARE PUBLISHED. TO ELIMINATE THE REGIONAL
BOOK OFFICE WOULD SHARPLY REDUCE THE BOOKS AVAILABLE IN
MEXICO, VENEZUELA, PERU, COLOMBIA AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE DOES NOT AGREE TO ELIMINATE THE THIRD AGRICUL-
TURE OFFICER. THEY STATE THAT IT WOULD "CRIPPLE OUR

FUNCTIONS TO A WORRISOME EXTENT". AGRICULTURE MAINTAINS THAT THEY DEPEND ON THE ROTATION OF THE ATTACHE AND HIS TWO ASSISTANTS TO MAINTAIN A PATTERN OF CONTINUITY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE A FULLY QUALIFIED LOCAL STAFF PROFESSIONAL. THEY ALSO REITERATED THE NEED FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL BECAUSE OF FREQUENT VISITORS FROM THE U.S. THE SIZE OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MEXICO WAS ALSO NOTED. AGRICULTURE STATED THAT YOU LOOK TO THE ATTACHE OFFICE TO KEEP INFORMED ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE LARGE USDA PROGRAM IN MEXICO.

IN KEEPING WITH YOUR CONVERSATIONS OF JULY 6 AND JULY 11 WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALDERHEAD, THE BUREAU HAS SUBSTITUTED THE AMERICAN SECRETARIAL POSITION IN
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THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE FOR THE THIRD OFFICER. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERING FURTHER SUBSTITUTION AND THEIR PROPOSAL WILL BE CONSIDERED IF PUT FORWARD.

JUSTICE

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WISHES TO DEFER DEFINITIVE ACTION REDUCING ONE FBI AGENT IN MEXICO UNTIL THEIR INSPECTION IN MEXICO IS COMPLETED AND ANALYZED. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT (INS) HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S LETTER OF JUNE 1 REGARDING THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT TIJUANA. UPON RECEIPT OF THEIR RESPONSES, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CORRESPOND WITH YOU.

3. REGARDING INS STAFFING, PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER TOP INS JOB IN MEXICO CITY REALLY NECESSARY. BUREAU BELIEVES, BASED ON ITS INFORMATION, THAT INS OFFICE COULD CARRY MEXICO AND REGIONAL WORKLOAD WITH REMAINING STAFF, THUS ELIMINATING ONE MORE MARGINAL POSITION.

4. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RECEIVED RESPONSES FROM THE AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE OTHER POSITIONS YOU PROPOSED REDUCING. UPON RECEIPT OF THEIR RESPONSES, THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THEIR VIEWS AND SOLICIT YOUR FINAL COMMENTS.

5. IN REVIEWING THESE RESPONSES, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY OVERWHELMING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF RETAINING THE POSITIONS IN QUESTION AS RESIDENT ABROAD. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR FINAL COMMENTS IN LIGHT OF THE AGENCY REPLIES. VANCE

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